

REMARKS

The present application was filed on October 12, 2001 with claims 1-27. Claims 1, 14 and 27 were the independent claims prior to this amendment.

In the current Decision from the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, the Board affirmed the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-6, 8-19 and 21-27 under 35 U.S.C. §103. The Board reversed the Examiner's rejection of claims 7, 20, 28 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. §103.

Consistent with the Decision from the Board, Applicants have amended the current application to incorporate the allowable subject matter indicated above. Specifically, the limitations of dependent claim 7 and dependent claim 3 (from which claim 7 depends) have been incorporated into independent claims 1 and 27. Similarly, Applicants have amended independent claim 14 to include the limitations of dependent claim 20 and dependent claim 16 (from which claim 20 depends). Finally, dependent claims 28 and 29 have been rewritten in independent form by incorporating all the limitations of claim 1 prior to the amendments made herein.

In view of the above, Applicants believe that claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-15, 17-19 and 21-29 are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request favorable reconsideration in view of the Board's Decision.

Respectfully submitted,



William E. Lewis
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 39,274
Ryan, Mason & Lewis, LLP
90 Forest Avenue
Locust Valley, NY 11560
(516) 759-2946

Date: March 19, 2009